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Mannequins on parade at hotel show – 1924

THE ladies who braved the elements and flocked to the University Arms Hotel had a treat such as the feminine soul loves.

The middle of the large dining room was empty except for a small dais.

A band discoursed dance music and, to the strains of a waltz, there floated into the room a vision of beauty in a delightful blue and silver frock, trimmed with fur.

She was speedily followed by another in black crepe de chine and yet another in a straight simple afternoon dress.

They all went through a set programme, pausing as they entered, posing gracefully and making various graceful movement to display the Babylonish garments, and finally vanished through the entrance.

All this was done with a detached, almost mechanical air, for was it not a mannequin parade organised by Miss Poupard.

Monster balloon causes a stir – 1908

A SENSATION was created at Sutton by the descent of a monster balloon near the Chain Causeway.

It was the renowned 'Valkyrie' carrying the champion lady balloonist, the Hon Mrs Assheton Harbord, which had been inflated at Battersea Park Gas Work hoping to sail as far as Peterborough.

It landed without the slightest difficulty and was packed in a cart for conveyance to Sutton Station.

Mrs Harbord's motor car had followed the balloon for some distance but the chauffeur had lost sight of it so, after being entertained by Walter Haddock of the Brooklands, she took the train from Ely.

Cabmen face motor competition – 1908

SMART taxi-cabs will soon be plying for hire in the streets of Cambridge.

The Watch Committee has decided to licence ten vehicles of the Provincial Motor Cab Company and, as soon as staff, garage and other matters have been arranged, the local cabmen will have to face this formidable form of competition, although ten taxies cannot monopolise all the trade.

Discipline remains good at gaol – 1908

CAMBRIDGE Prison is satisfactory and discipline well-maintained.

The number of male prisoners last year was 818 and their conduct generally good.

They are employed at oakum picking, sawing, chopping and bundling wood, gardening and building work while the female prisoners do needlework, knitting, laundry work and cleaning.

One female prisoner, aged 66, was baptised at her own request.

The schoolmaster has carried out his duties with zeal in his new schoolroom where 45 prisoners have been under instruction.

There has been no escape, no attempt at escape, and no cause for corporal punishment.

Salvation Army asked to 'move on' – 1908

THE police and the Cambridge corps of the Salvation Army came into conflict on Sunday evening.

With full band, officers and followers, the customary demonstration commenced at the top of Kingston Street, a pitch which the Salvationists have occupied without interruption for twenty years.

A song, followed by a prayer, opened the service before a police officer asked them to 'move on.'

The SA officer refused but did say that, when a sick person complains of the band, it is silenced at once.

Coffin dispute delays funeral – 1901

CAMBRIDGE Guardians heard that a coffin had been supplied by the undertaker minus the plate and the funeral had had to be postponed.

The people concerned had a desire to avoid, as far as possible, what might be termed a pauper funeral and were willing to pay half the expense.

The coffin should be provided by the parochial authorities but the relative wanted it made by someone other than the man who did the work on behalf of the Union because, with some of that pride which they had seen so frequently exemplified by paupers, they wanted to escape the eyes of Mrs Grundy.

That had probably led to a little friction with the undertaker.

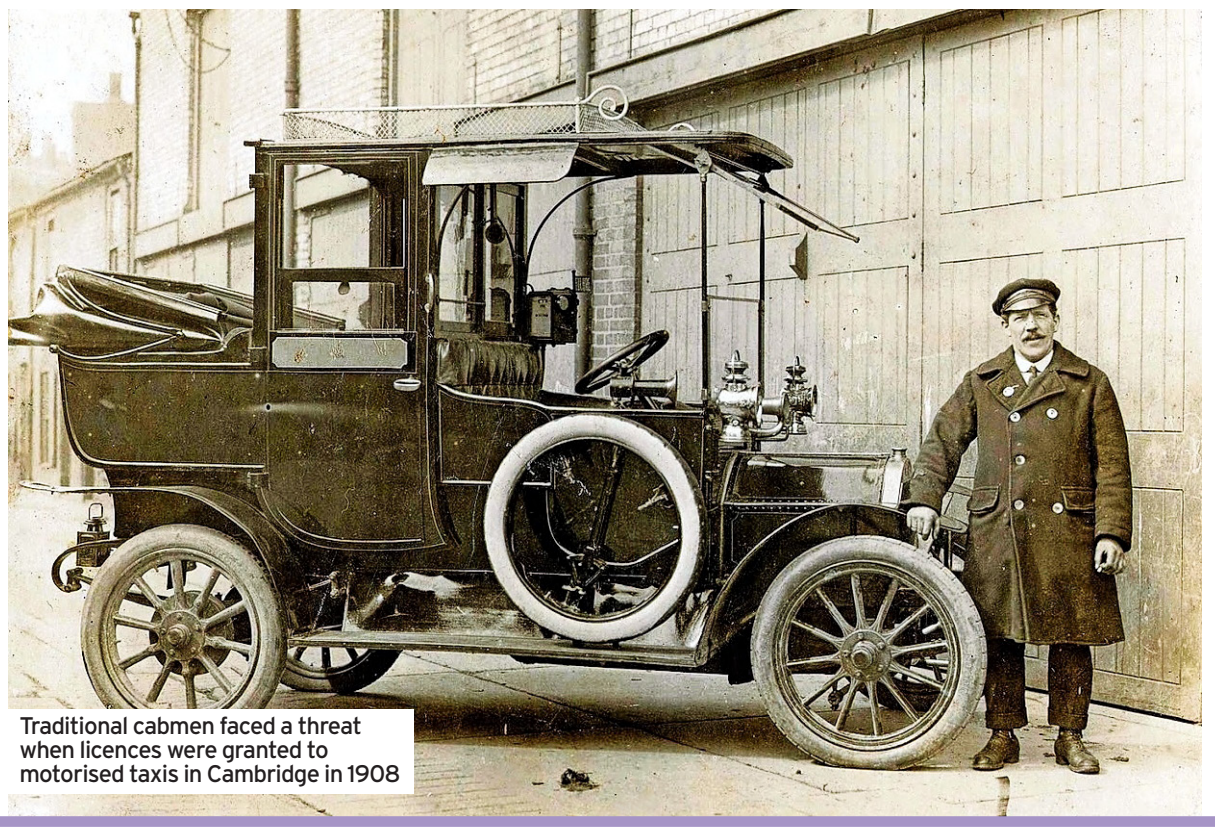
Fire breaks out in college kitchen – 1899

ON Saturday night, the cooks left the kitchens at King's College, as they thought, safe, but PC Witham saw smoke coming through the roof.

For fully two hours the fire brigade had their hands full.

The staircase is quite burned down and access to the cook's room above is by means of ladders.

On Sunday morning, the cooks went to prepare the usual meals and members of the college were served as if nothing out of the ordinary had occurred.



Traditional cabmen faced a threat when licences were granted to motorised taxis in Cambridge in 1908

Soldiers taking a break at Parker's Piece in 1914

Training of new county rifles battalion – 1914

THE work of raising and training the new Cambridgeshire Battalions is proceeding very satisfactorily.

Recruits are being treated well, comfortably housed, warmly clothed and well fed.

Their physical improvement has been great and they have mastered the rudiments of drill and learned fixing and unfixing bayonets.

When rifles arrive, they will be well fitted to bear them.

Troops are based at Melbourne Place School and the County Girls' School where classrooms make admirable barrack rooms.

The men sleep on the floor in straw palliasses – canvas bags filled with straw – and a blanket apiece.

The kitchens are well equipped and the catering in the hands of Mr G.P. Hawkins of the Dorothy Café.

At Melbourne Place, school canteens have been installed adjoining the dining hall.

Mr Dodds of the Abbey Stores, Abbey Road, has one counter where soldiers can obtain all kinds of groceries, sardines, apples and walnuts together with writing materials, boot polish, braces and bachelors' buttons.

Everything is sold at moderate prices. A penny will purchase almost anything in stock.

At the wet canteens, men can obtain beer or minerals and hot coffee is supplied night and morning.

At Melbourne Place School, 'reveille' is sounded at 6am and, after coffee, men have a spell of Swedish exercises before breakfast. Then there are lectures on musketry or guard-mounting by NCOs, all old soldiers, followed by drill.

After dinner, there is a short period for a smoke or a look at the papers.

Afternoon parade and drill follows, then a lecture before the men go for a short route march during which they are allowed to smoke and exercise their vocal abilities in 'Tipperary'.

After tea, they are free until 9pm

Uniform and boots for the soldiers based at Melbourne Place School are expected to arrive shortly.

Meanwhile, they are wearing their civilian attire but have been issued with shirts and socks. The men seem happy and well-pleased with their lot.

One farm labourer from Wood Ditton says "I'm better off now than I ever was. My guvnor's paying me seven shillings a week and I'm getting seven bob here and board and lodgings and clothes".

He was contemplating marriage before the call to arms came but he and his sweetheart have patriotically agreed to wait until the war is over. Let us hope their happiness may not long be deferred.